

Eric Wilson  
Resource Protection and Assistant Bureau Chief  
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Dear Mr. Wilson,

The following sections in IDAPA 20.07.02 are areas of concern to me and I respectfully request you consider changes to those sections.

**Section 200.04 Location of Wells; Section 430.01 Location of Gas Processing facilities; Section 420.01 Location of Tank Batteries:** The setbacks proposed should be a greater distance than 300 feet to protect the health and safety of those who live and work near oil and gas infrastructure. Setback distances between 500 and 1,000 feet or greater are the standard in many surrounding oil and gas producing states. I support local control and the local responsibility to protect health, safety and welfare. State setbacks should not infringe on the right of local government to implement additional setbacks. There are many considerations such as wind patterns, geographical features and site specific on-the-ground data that have to be included in the discussion about setbacks. The state setback should be considered a **minimum!**

**Section 410 Meters:** Metering and reporting should be done at the wellhead and not simply at point-of-sale. Calibration should be done by an independent third party as often as necessary to ensure accurate measurements. Meter reports should be available to the Department immediately. The state is mandated to prevent the waste of oil and gas and since oil and gas may be leaked, flared, spilled or used for private purposes without the collection of severance taxes and royalties metering is imperative.

**Section 110 Surface Owner Protections:** The surface use agreements should not be limited to list agriculture income and lost value of improvements. The surface use bond amount is totally inadequate and should be a minimum of \$10,000 per well. \$5,000 is an insufficient amount to compensate a surface owner for damages, reclamation and lost income. A clarification of “good faith negotiation” needs to be provided for clarity.

**Section 220 Bonding:** Ensure bonding amounts, especially blanket bonds, are adequate to prevent a legacy of abandoned wells currently seen in other oil and gas producing states. These bonds should be in place for the life even when ownership is transferred to another party. Create a statewide reclamation fund focused on reclamation of oil and gas drilling operations.

**Section 400 Production Reports:** These reports are necessary for ensuring accountability and transparency and fair and accurate reporting of production for the protection of the mineral interest owner and the taxpayers of the State of Idaho. They should be public immediately after they are available. This rule should be clear and err on the side of transparency and public interest when it comes to industry claims of trade secrets. This level of confidentiality is inconsistent with the majority of other states.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules. We are asking for transparency and protection and the above changes will move in that direction.

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